



The Messenger

A monthly publication of Christ Lutheran Church

Vol. 61 No. 5
May 2021

Pastor's Message

Dear Christ Lutheran Congregation,

Christ Lutheran Church Council has formed a committee to begin a conversation about our return to in-person worship. We are planning for a future in which both in-person and remote opportunities are robust and accessible.

Our work considers these three general principles as keystone ideas:

- Community matters: We value community life and being together, in person. As soon as it is safe to gather in an inclusive way, we will do so.
- Safety matters: We will do our best to keep our congregation and the community safe. We will not contribute to community spread.
- Science matters: We support vaccination for those who are able to receive it, as a scientific, reasonable, and loving decision.

Our plan will be based on criteria from national, state, and county resources that set benchmarks and indicators for safe in-person gatherings. We plan on securing technology to support both in-person and remote worship. Resumption of in-person events will proceed slowly and deliberately, using the protocols approved by the Congregational Council.

There is so much to consider in this planning! When this committee has a safe, thoughtful, practical proposal, that has the approval of Council, the Congregation will be informed. Above all, we will be transparent and responsive as we proceed.

Copies of this letter and the plan have been mailed or emailed to you as well. If you still have questions, please feel free to reach out to Leslie Anderson at (509) 386-7297.

Thank you.

God's Blessings,

Pastor Joel, Barbara and Kurt Hoffman, Michelle Summers, Dan Grinstead, Leslie Anderson

Resume Worship Subcommittee

-Action plan on following pages

Mission

We are God's people, united by faith in Jesus Christ, forgiven, chosen and called by Him through the Word and Sacraments to be a mission people.

~This is my Body~

Join us on Sunday, May 9th and on Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd for brief drive-in communion services behind the church. The services will start at 10:00 AM, but you will want to come a little early to get a good parking spot!

New Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8:30 AM - Noon
1:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Christ Lutheran Church

Rev. Joel Q. Ley, Pastor

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Organist: Cynthia Knutson
Sexton: Gene Spangrude
Office Manager: Erin Aycock

A congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America (ELCA)

Christ Lutheran Church Plan for Resuming In-Person Worship

The Resuming Worship Sub-committee has developed the following plan to implement a safe reopening of various parts of the Christ Lutheran ministry in Walla Walla. Foremost in our minds are the safety and health of our faith community and the Walla Walla community. This document primarily provides guidelines and benchmarks for the restarting of in-person worship at Christ Lutheran.

General Guiding Principles:

- **Community matters:** We value community life and being together, in person. As soon as it is safe to gather in an inclusive way, we will do so.
- **Safety matters:** We will do our best to keep our congregation and the community safe. Our faith community has a higher percentage of at-risk people compared to the general public. We will be cautious in restarting activities that could lead to spread within our congregation even though other parts of society are facing fewer restrictions. We will not contribute to community spread.
- **Science matters:** We support vaccination for those who are able to receive it, as a scientific, reasonable, and loving decision.

Criteria for Reopening

Our plan to resume in-person worship will unfold when the following criteria are met:

1. The State of Washington places Walla Walla County in Phase 3 **AND**
2. Walla Walla County Health Department metrics also meet the Phase 3 guidelines **AND** (<https://www.covidwwc.com/>)
3. The fully vaccinated rate in Walla Walla County reaches 50%. ([Dashboard](#)) **AND**
4. Christ Lutheran has technology in place to support both in-person and remote worship.

Once these criteria are met, we will select a Sunday, four to six weeks after that date, to welcome in-person worshipers. Resumption of in-person events will proceed slowly and deliberately, using the protocols established by this committee and approved by the Church Council. We will be transparent and responsive as we proceed.

Worship Service Resumption

A safe resumption of worship services relies on each person attending to abide by the guidelines set forth here. We are committed to keeping all members of our congregation safe including those who maybe can't be vaccinated or have other serious risk factors. If participants are unwilling to meet these guidelines, we will revisit the decision to resume in-person worship.

Basic requirements

1. MASKS

- a. Washington State requirements state that all people attending a worship service must wear a mask and practice physical distancing in the building. Failure to comply will result in a request that the participant leave the building or an immediate end to worship service.
- b. Worship leaders will unmask in order to be clearly heard and understood.

2. VACCINATION

- a. Staff, worship leaders, greeters, ushers and other volunteers should be vaccinated, but we will not require proof of vaccination. Nor will we require proof of vaccination from worshippers or building users.

3. SOCIAL DISTANCING

- a. We will abide by the 6-foot rule between family units. We will work on seating plans to best accommodate groups of different sizes.
- b. Our pew spacing will require that we have an empty pew row between occupied pews except if a single-family unit splits and sits on one end of two adjacent pews.

4. SAFE PRACTICES

- a. Hand sanitizer will be available at all entrances.
- b. When possible, we will have the sanctuary windows open to increase ventilation.
- c. Persons with Covid-19 or flu-like symptoms must refrain from joining us in person.

5. SINGING DURING WORSHIP

- a. We will be guided by state guidelines for singing.
- b. The congregation will not sing initially.
- c. We are hopeful that in time, congregational singing and choral reading (prayers, etc.) will be possible, with all worshippers masked.

6. HOLY COMMUNION

- a. Though we earnestly desire to return to offering the sacrament each Sunday, we are studying best practices for distribution of Holy Communion that are both safe and meaningful.

We are in the process of working out the specific details of how the plan will be implemented, thank you for your patience!

Adapted from "A Proposal to Resume" from Lutheran Church of the Ascension, ELCA

Members in Action



Happy Retirement!

We launched our Office Manager, Deb Fuller, into retirement on Saturday, April 10th with a drive-through farewell. The weather was chilly and unsettled, but our thoughts were warm and full of gratitude for her twelve years with us at Christ Lutheran.

Attendance Report
Average Sunday: Worship Attendance

March 2021 - 106
March 2020 - 149

It's Spring Again! Time to think about gardens. There is a sign-up sheet by the back entrance. If you have any questions, please call Dan Grinstead at (509) 529-0910.



He Is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Here are a couple of pictures from our celebration of Christ's resurrection. (photo credit: Jim Peterson)

Prayers for our Service Personnel



★ Kyle Jones USN
 ★ Kyle Rutledge USA
 ★ Lee Rutledge USA
 ★ Josh Wolfram USAF
 ★ Kris Wolfram ANG

★ Hawaii
 ★ Fort Polk, LA
 ★ Fort Bragg, NC
 ★ Wright/Patterson, Dayton OH
 ★ Pentagon, DC

If you would like to add someone to our list, please leave the information at the church office or e-mail Erin at christlutheran@gohighspeed.com.

Members in Action



May Birthday's

Beverly Hermsen	3
Julianne Quinn	7
Terri Gilbert	8
Linda Lohrmann	10
Joey Norby	15
Tyson Basel	16
Stephen Benzel	18
Janet Tinker	18
Vincent Peterson	21
Patricia Gardner	22
Norma Hanson	22
Jennifer Keyes	22
Gene Spangrude	22
Elias Bailey	23
Ella Destito	24
Virgil Hein	24
Keldan Swant	25
Carmen Funderburk	30
John Funderburk	31
Gerald Maib	31

OUR PRAYER CHAIN

If you aren't on our e-mail prayer chain and would like to be, we can make that happen! Just send or give Erin your e-mail address and she will get you on the list. You can contact her at 525-2243 or christlutheran@gohighspeed.com.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please clearly write your name and amount of gift being made on all offering envelopes submitted. This ensures that your gifts are entered correctly into our records system.

CLC NEWSLETTER

Your contributions to this newsletter are welcome! Please submit your articles to Erin in the church office, either in written form or you can send it via e-mail to christlutheran@gohighspeed.com (either type the article in your email or attach a Microsoft Word or text-only document). **And if you'd like to receive your newsletter via CLC's website, you can just give Erin your e-mail address!**



FELLOWSHIP

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, October 30th

We are currently working on the 125th Anniversary Celebration. Since we still have so many unknowns about when and how we can gather in person, this celebration is coming together slowly. There is a committee working on the Christ Lutheran 125th Anniversary Cookbook that should be ready for sale by mid-summer. There is a quilt being made to commemorate this church milestone and a program being planned. Details on the program will follow over the next few months.

Dine-Around groups, that were formed last spring, are starting to meet virtually. It is not ideal as having dinner in person, but folks have said it has been nice to see some familiar faces even if it is virtually. If you would like to join a group for dinner, brunch, dessert or a happy hour, please feel free to let me know. Email me at carmnjohn@att.net.

Carmen Funderburk
Fellowship Chairman

Church Phone Number

It has been brought to our attention that some members of the congregation are still using an old phone number for the office. Please take a moment and update your contacts so that you are using **(509) 525-2243** when calling us.

Thank you!





**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 9, 2021**

Council president, Leslie Anderson, called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. The council met online using the Zoom platform due to the state meeting size restrictions resulting from the coronavirus pandemic. Those attending were: Pastor Joel Ley, Leslie Anderson, Norma Austin, Michelle Summers, Eric Schmid, Carmen Funderburk, JoAnne Savage, Charleen Kaaen, Jim Peterson, Dan Grinstead, Barbara Hoffman, Sara Pinkerton, John Lohrmann, and Cecilia Rutledge. CLC member, Ruth Ladderud, also attended the meeting. There were no absences.

Michelle Summers gave the devotions.

Charleen Kaaen made a motion to approve the February 9th minutes, Carmen Funderburk seconded, and motion passed.

Financial Report: Cecilia reviewed the financial report. CLC's checking account balance ended the month with a balance of \$190,248. Total cash, including restricted/endowments, totaled \$372,296 as of 2/28/2021, which includes \$38,522 for designated/restricted accounts and \$22,000 for the PPP loan. CLC had \$1,691,131 in positive equity on 2/28/2021.

Committee Reports:

Adult Education: John Lohrmann reported that his Adult Education committee (Leslie Anderson, Margaret Ley, Jon Jensen, and John Knapp) met via Zoom. John has ordered materials from Augsburg Fortress's "Dialogues on Race" series. The course will begin via Zoom on April 5th and will continue for about 7 weeks. John will publicize this course offering to the congregation. Future programs were discussed within his committee and will be announced at a later date.

Youth Education: Charleen Kaaen reported that she has ordered craft activities for CLC children to do during Lent. Spark magazines & craft activities have been delivered to our Sunday school youth. An Easter egg hunt alternative is under consideration. Charleen is investigating Vacation Bible School programs. She would like council to consider a Sunday school type of program for our middle/high school aged youth in the future.

Youth Program: Sara Pinkerton reported that she contacted several CLC families to find out how the church can help them currently and post-pandemic. Sara will begin a Zoom "parents coffee hour" and is also looking into how best to resume monthly play-date gatherings. She would like to rename the committee "Youth & Family Program".

Worship: Barbara Hoffman reported that YouTube services on Sundays & Lenten Wednesdays continue. The drive-through communion service on Ash Wednesday was canceled due to heavy snowfall. Drive-through communion services are planned for Maundy Thursday & Easter Sunday. Council needs to establish benchmarks and parameters for resuming in-person activities and worship at CLC (see New Business sections B & C for more discussion on this topic). The Worship committee will require a new post-pandemic format to accommodate changes in worship as CLC moves forward.

Outreach: JoAnne Savage reported that the Sleep Center is delighted with the new chest freezer which CLC purchased for them. JoAnne thanked Charleen for organizing the purchase and delivery on Behalf of CLC. The director for Tabitha's Closet will be leaving the position.

Christ Lutheran Church Business



(Continued from previous page)

Pastor's Report: Pastor Joel provided a written report of pastoral acts, educational outreach, meetings/events, etc. for February. All of Pastor's 2020 reports have been filed with the synod and bishop. Holy Week services will be as noted in the Worship Committee report (see above). Pastor continues to volunteer at all of the Covid vaccination clinics in our community and has been gratified to see several CLC members volunteering and as well as other members receiving their vaccinations.

A. Ministry Expansion Suggestions: No new suggestions were presented for discussion.

B. Congregational Outreach/COVID response: Discussion was had on plans to resume worship in the CLC sanctuary (time-line, format, benchmark criteria, & floor plan). Guidelines and requirements based on research from the Center for Disease Control, Washington State Governor's Covid 19 Phase 1 & 2 Religious and Faith Based Guidance webpage, ELCA, and other agencies will need to be considered. A committee was formed to take this information and format specific benchmarks that will need to be met in the community before resuming church services. The committee will also define a format for how worship will be conducted in the sanctuary. The committee will present their recommendations to council at the April meeting for discussion before moving forward.

C. Building Use: Leslie had emailed council members a draft proposal for protocol on indoor use of CLC facilities (NOT worship). The committee (Leslie, Pastor Joel, John Lohrmann, & Dan Grinstead) consulted resources from the CDC, State of Washington, Walla Walla County Health Department, and local contacts. The draft was thoroughly discussed with some edits made. As vaccination of the population becomes more widespread CLC will continue to monitor the guidelines, recommendations, and requirements the public is asked to adhere to. The expectation is that our building use protocol will change several times as information becomes available and as a transition to "post-pandemic" takes place. Dan Grinstead made a motion to adopt the "Protocols for Indoor Use of CLC Fellowship Hall" document as agreed to by council. Barbara Hoffman seconded and the motion passed. This document will be made available to the congregation in order to maintain transparency with members regarding building use protocols. Barbara thanked Leslie and the committee for the work they did to formulate the document so that CLC groups can once again access the fellowship hall at church.

D. Directory Update: Ruth Ladderud has been reaching out to members via email, postcards, and phone calls to update the directory. Approximately 40 congregants have not responded. Ruth would like to have new hardcopies prepared to distribute to members in the near future.

E. PPP Loan: Eric reported that CLC has not yet received an invitation to apply for loan forgiveness.

F. Office Manager Position: Norma presented a recommendation to hire a new office manager to take the place of Deb Fuller who is retiring immediately following Easter. Erin Aycock has been interviewed by Pastor Joel and by Norma. In-office training, under Deb's supervision, would commence on March 15th. John Lohrmann made a motion to extend a job offer to Ms. Aycock. Jim Peterson seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Leslie thanked Norma for the time and effort she put into finding such an outstanding candidate for the position. (Note: On Wednesday, March 10th, Norma contacted Ms. Aycock to extend the job offer. Erin accepted the offer and will commence in-office training on Monday, March 15th.)

G. Zoom Dine-Arounds: Carmen Funderburk reported that some of the previous Dine-Around groups are meeting via Zoom. She encourages interested church members to contact her about forming new Dine-Around groups

H. Evangelism Chair: council position remains vacant.

Christ Lutheran Church Business



(Continued from previous page)

I. Synod Representatives: Two delegates are needed to represent CLC at the Northwest Intermountain Synod meeting (held via Zoom) on Saturday, April 24, 2021. Leslie Anderson is one of the delegates. CLC needs an additional delegate before the registration deadline at the beginning of April. John Lohrmann will be attending as the parliamentarian but will not be considered a CLC delegate.

J. Deb's Retirement Celebration: Carmen will talk directly with Deb about her schedule and her preference regarding a celebration on her behalf. Carmen will purchase a retirement gift for Deb from the congregation..

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Summers

Treasurer's Report

March 2021 Offerings		March 2021 Expenses	
General Fund:	\$40,611	General Operations:	\$24,240
Interest Income:	\$15		
Other Income:	\$0		
Desig/Restricted:	\$2,923	Desig/Restricted:	\$176
Total Income:	\$43,549	Total Income:	\$24,416

March 2021 Net Income (Loss): \$19,133

Monthly Results:

Operational income came in **\$15,493 more than** budget for the month of March.

Operational expenses were **\$2,377 less than** budget for the month of March.

Total Operational funds resulted in a **net inflow of \$17,870** for the month.

Designated/Restricted Account activity resulted in a **net inflow of \$2,746** for the month.

Overall Combined Funds resulted in a **net inflow of \$19,133** for the month.

Year To-Date Results:

Total Operational Income to-date is **approximately \$13,490 ahead of budget** for 2021. This is approximately \$10,230 ahead of 2020.

Total Operational Expenses are **approximately \$11,364 under budget** for 2021. This is approximately \$5,127 ahead of 2020.

YTD Income and Expenses, combined with a **\$3,920 net inflow** from the designated and restricted accounts, we have a **\$24,326 net inflow** of cash for 2021. This is approximately \$24,084 ahead of 2020.

Balance Sheet Items:

CLC's checking account ended the month with a \$209,673 balance.

Total cash, including restricted/endowments accounts, totaled \$393,491 as of 3/31/2021.

CLC had \$1,712,019 in positive equity on 3/31/2021.

May 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 May Day
2 11 ^{am} Zoom Coffee Hour Pastor Ley's YouTube Worship Service	3 5:30 ^{pm} 'Dialogues on Race' Zoom Study	4	5 6:30 ^{pm} Zoom Confirmation Class	6 1 ^{pm} Zoom Bible Study	7	8
9 <i>Mother's Day</i> 10 ^{am} Drive-In Communion Service 11 ^{am} Zoom Coffee Hour Pastor Ley's YouTube	10 5:30 ^{pm} 'Dialogues on Race' Zoom Study Group	11 7 ^{pm} Zoom Council Meeting	12 6:30 ^{pm} Zoom Confirmation Class	13 Ascension Day 1 ^{pm} Zoom Bible Study	14	15 Armed Forces Day
16 11 ^{am} Zoom Coffee Hour Pastor Ley's YouTube Worship Service	17 5:30 ^{pm} 'Dialogues on Race' Zoom Study	18	19 6:30 ^{pm} Zoom Confirmation Class	20 Newsletter Deadline! 1 ^{pm} Zoom Bible Study	21	22
23 Pentecost 10 ^{am} Drive-In Communion Service 11 ^{am} Zoom Coffee Hour Pastor Ley's YouTube	24 5:30 ^{pm} 'Dialogues on Race' Zoom Study Group	25	26 6:30 ^{pm} Zoom Confirmation Class	27 1 ^{pm} Zoom Bible Study	28	29
30 11 ^{am} Zoom Coffee Hour Pastor Ley's YouTube Worship Service	31 Office Closed Memorial Day! 5:30 ^{pm} 'Dialogues on Race' Zoom Study					

Christ Lutheran Church
1420 S. 2nd Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Return service requested

To:

